

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Volume XVIII.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1903.

Number 37.

AGRICULTURE

Sweet Clover Not Good for Cattle.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

In the year 1878 I saw sweet clover seed advertised as being a fine clover for honey and also a fine food for farm animals, so I ordered four pounds and sowed the seed in the spring of 1879 on very good land. It came up and made a fine growth. It came so early that I thought it must be good for my milk cow, so I gave her one small feed, as that was all she would eat; but oh, the milk! If the cow had been fed on gourds the milk would not have tasted much more bitter. I then tried my mules with it, and they would not eat the second feed of it when offered to them; so I tasted it myself and found it as bitter as rue, and as hot and pungent as red pepper, and it produced no blooms for the bees to work on until the second year, when it bloomed, seeded and died. But the seed falling on the ground in the edge of the yard has kept growing there every year up to this time. In the most fertile spots it grew seven feet high, and the bees simply wallowed in the white blooms all day through July and August.

But it would not grow for me on poor, stiff land nor on the sandy poor land. For me it required good strong land. As it was such a good honey plant around the edge of the yard and in my garden, I thought to reap a harvest of honey from it just when there was none to be had from any other source. So I sowed nearly a peck of good seed on both light and heavy soil, and it did nothing, did not live the second year. But on a good land it will grow luxuriantly, provided it has lime it or is ashed heavily.

But our stock would not eat it, and I concluded that it would not pay for honey alone, and on as good land as it required, I could make more of something else. There are lots in and about the city, however, where it will grow to perfection. And if stock can be found to eat it, may prove a good thing in some places. There has been a long controversy over it among bee-keepers for many years, and it is not settled yet.

The greatest objection urged against it is that stock will not eat it to amount to anything. Yet Bro. W. T. Hutchinson, editor of The Bee Keeper's Review, at Flint, Mich., speaks in glowing terms of it, and

claims that stock in his locality are very fond of it, while there is an equal number of bee-keeper who have discarded its use because apparently good for honey alone. It is worth a trial on a small scale at first, and where it is found to grow well on thin land, and stock eat it well, it may be a good crop; certainly it is a good honey plant, but after it has bloomed there is nothing of it but coarse woody stems; no foliage like that of alfalfa or red clover.

From my own experience with it, I would advise to go slow on it for anything but honey, and that experience covers thirty years with honey bees and honey plants.

Respectfully,

D. P. MEACHAM.

Wake Co., N. C.

Fair Visitors Should See A. & M. Dairy Department.

The A. & M. dairy class can be seen at work, separating milk, testing milk, churning, working, and printing butter, in the Agricultural Division of the main building from 10 to 1 o'clock on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings of this week.

Any one desiring tests made of milk, cream, skim milk, or butter-milk, can have them made free of charge by bringing small samples on the above mornings.

Come to the Cotton Growers' Meeting.

Mr. T. B. Parker, Secretary of the Farmers' Alliance, calls attention of all farmers throughout the State interested in cotton growing, that there will be a meeting in the House of Representatives, in the city of Raleigh, on Wednesday, October 21. The purpose of this meeting is to arrange plans whereby the planter shall get better prices for his product. The indications are that the crop will fall far below the demands. If the crop is marketed now, the farmer will lose a large per cent of the increase in prices due to such a state of affairs. Everyone who can do so should attend and lend their cordial support to effect such an organization as will enable the farmers of this country to more perfectly control their products. The safety of their future depends on such an organization, and if it is not accomplished, it will be due entirely to the fact that the farmers simply refuse their co-operation in perfecting plans looking forward to this end. It can be done, and it must be done, if we expect any amelioration of the present condition of affairs.—Lumberton Robesonian.

FIGHTING THE BOLL WEEVIL.

Southern Commissioners of Agriculture Outline a Plan of Action.

Secretary B. W. Kilgore has kindly favored us with a copy of the following resolutions, adopted by the Cotton States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture, at Montgomery, Ala., October 9th, in regard to the boll weevil menace to Southern cotton growers. Prof. H. A. Morgan, of Louisiana, was chairman of the committee, and made the following report:

Your committee appointed to draft resolutions relative to the boll weevil situation, beg leave to submit the following:

Whereas, the Mexican boll weevil, based upon the judgment of those who have carefully studied the question, is regarded as one of the greatest and most serious agricultural problems that has ever presented itself to our people; therefore be it

Resolved 1. That it is criminal negligence on the part of the people of the cotton growing States to sit down and say that this pest is bound to spread and that there is no use in attempting doing anything to postpone the evil day.

2. That the question is one of National as well as State importance, and that the next Congress should be memorialized to make appropriations sufficient to defray the expense of the extermination of the weevil as it appears in isolated places and to establish such quarantine measures as will prevent the rapid spread of the weevil throughout the cotton belt. The members of Congress representing the several cotton States of this Association and of the entire cotton belt are hereby urged to promote legislation looking to this end.

3. That this Association place its seal of disapproval upon the importation into non-infected areas of live weevils by persons or organizations curious to know what the weevil is like or anxious to conduct experiments for the purpose of procuring remedies, and that we ask all the cotton States to pass such laws as to make it a criminal offence to bring live weevils into non-infected districts; and that the Legislatures of the cotton States authorize their Boards of Agriculture, or in the absence of such, the Experiment Station authorities, to establish quarantine or other necessary regulations

that will prevent the spread of the weevil.

4. That this Association urge all non-infected States to strenuously guard against the importation of cotton, cotton seed, hulls, corn, hay and any other farm products from Texas, that are liable to introduce the weevil.

5. That this Association urge upon our Departments of Agriculture and Experiment Stations to emphasize in their experiments the necessity of early maturing varieties of cotton on account of their value on weevil infected lands.

6. That we urge our farmers and planters to study more carefully the value of diversity of crops in boll weevil-infected sections that they may make ample preparation for a successful campaign against the weevil when it does appear.

7. That we recommend that the Departments of Agriculture and Experiment Stations publish in circular or bulletin form a statement of warning relative to the boll weevil, embracing its life, history, habits, the danger of rapid spread and the best methods of growing cotton in weevil-infected areas.

8. We recommend that this Association urge each State in its organization and of the entire cotton belt to send a strong delegation to the next Boll Weevil Convention, to be held in Dallas, Texas, in the near future.

9. That this Association appoint a permanent boll weevil committee, a report from which will be required at each annual meeting.

Farmers at the Mercy of the Trust.

Monday of this week the oil mills sent out notice of reduction of \$1.00 a ton in the price they pay for cotton seed. All the mills have combined and pay the same price, eliminating competition. The price the mills pay for seed at points in Northampton is now 19½ cents per bushel.—Roanoke-Chowan Times.

Turning Hogs on Corn and Peas.

A Randolph County reader asked: "Will it pay to turn hogs and pigs into a field of corn and peas instead of gathering corn and peas?"

As a rule, we should say that it would not pay. Hogs waste too much. They will tear down corn, eat the ears partly, and move on to fresh supplies. Unless it is impossible to secure labor to do the harvesting, do not leave it to the hogs.